



Security Council

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Letter dated 11 September 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a note verbale dated 12 August 2014 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) BAN Ki-moon



Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to inform it of the following: pursuant to paragraph 50 of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013), the Permanent Mission of France transmits herewith the third report on the operational activities of the French force Sangaris deployed in the Central African Republic.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretariat would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Secretariat the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure

[Original: French]

Third report on Operation Sangaris**Support to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic in the discharge of its mandate****Period from 25 May to 25 July 2014****Basis of the support to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA)**

- Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) of 5 December 2013 authorizes the French forces in the Central African Republic, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, and for a temporary period, to take all necessary measures to support MISCA in the discharge of its mandate.

Generic actions undertaken by the Sangaris force

- In the implementation of confidence-building measures, since 9 December 2013, the Sangaris force has been supporting MISCA by implementing and overseeing measures for the disarming and barracking of armed groups in its areas of deployment.
- MISCA and Operation Sangaris have contributed to the barracking of the ex-Seleka at several sites in Bangui and have participated in the disarming of the anti-balaka in Bangui in the centre and in western Central African Republic. Since December, they have also seized nearly 1,400 military weapons and large quantities of ammunition in the process of disarming ex-Seleka and anti-balaka elements in an impartial manner.
- These actions have been carried out jointly in Bangui and the western and eastern parts of the country in order to extend the area control actions. During these missions, the Sangaris force intervened to prevent or put an end to any abuses it witnessed, in particular by firing warning shots.
- The Sangaris force also supports MISCA in protecting the people on a daily basis, not only in Bangui but also in the provinces, in particular in Boda, Bouar, Yaloke, Bossangoa, Sibut, Grimari, Bambari and Bria, where the French forces acting jointly with MISCA have prevented abuses and sometimes used force to put an end to them. The operation carried out from 5 to 15 June in conjunction with the Gabonese MISCA contingent in the central town of Dekoa enabled the inhabitants who had fled into the bush several months earlier to return to their village. The operation also led to the reinstatement of the sous-préfet of Dekoa on 1 July.

Similarly, the operation carried out from 10 to 13 July in conjunction with the Cameroonian MISCA contingent in the north-western regions of Nana Bakassa and Batangafo put an end to abuses committed by certain recalcitrant armed groups.

- The joint Sangaris-MISCA action played a major part in the resumption of vehicle traffic on the main east-west road between Bangui and Garoua Boulai on the border with Cameroon. The many convoy escorts (on average two provided by MISCA and one by Sangaris every week) have sustained trade flows to Bangui and enabled the capital to be resupplied on an ongoing basis. The joint mission is creating a virtuous circle which is contributing to the current economic recovery.
- Access to humanitarian assistance is also being facilitated by the ongoing joint action by the Sangaris force and MISCA in the areas where they are deployed together, especially in the east of the country.

Substantive support provided to MISCA

- Seven French officers have been integrated into MISCA headquarters on an ongoing basis; one gendarmerie officer is an adviser to the Commander of the police component; one officer is an adviser to the MISCA Force Commander.
- In Bangui, two tactical liaison detachments provided by the Acier combined arms battle group (the French battalion assigned to the city) coordinate joint missions with the Burundian and Rwandan battalions of MISCA.
- On a daily basis, support to MISCA also takes the form of advising on the restructuring of units, the organization of command and planning for operations. Military intelligence is shared between the leaderships of the two forces. The planning cells of the general staff of the two forces meet on a weekly basis. A meeting is also held every week to coordinate operations in Bangui.
- The French and MISCA force commanders interact in a unified manner with the Transitional Authorities and the main actors on a regular basis to coordinate their joint actions. The general staff of the two forces meet every week for that purpose.
- Patrols and operations are planned and conducted jointly on a regular basis in Bangui and in outlying regions. While concentrating on the main supply road leading to the capital and on certain districts in Bangui, these joint missions are normally carried out wherever Sangaris is deployed. Over 260 joint patrols have been carried out in the last two months.
- In the area of logistics, France has helped to make MISCA more mobile: 54 French vehicles are held by MISCA, and support continues to be provided for them from M'poko.
- France has also supported MISCA deployment to outlying regions, which is currently 90 per cent complete. The withdrawal of the Chadian contingent in early April, however, delayed that deployment: the African Union force had to urgently fill the security vacuum left behind by postponing its deployment to the eastern provinces of the Central African Republic.
- In terms of medical support, the Sangaris force conducted three surgeries and provided paramedical assistance in 30 cases for MISCA in the last two months. Two patients were medically evacuated by force helicopters.

- France participated in unloading four Antonov 124 aircraft for the United Nations and provided inter- and intra-theatre air transportation for more than 600 African soldiers.

Sangaris activities to assist the internal security forces

- Pursuant to the French forces' mandate, contained in paragraphs 28 (v) and 50 of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013), concerning their contribution to "national and international efforts to reform and restructure the defence and security sectors", Sangaris activities have taken the form of joint patrols by Sangaris and internal security forces in the fifth district of Bangui and support for the deployment of internal security forces in the provinces (main supply road and Bambari).
- Pursuant to paragraph 54 (e) of resolution 2127 (2013), France requested the sanctions committee's prior authorization for the French Operation Sangaris forces to provide the Central African internal security forces with a limited number of weapons from the stocks seized by Sangaris during disarmament operations as part of its operations to support MISCA. With the agreement of the sanctions committee, the weapons were transferred.

A second request for an authorization covering 31 weapons is currently under consideration under a no-objection procedure.
